Please cancel claims 1-35.

Please add new claims 36-55.

36.(new): A guide device for a power saw operating upon a workpiece to divide the workpiece into two separated portions irrespective of the length of cut comprising:

a first clamp removably secured to a first end of the workpiece, said first clamp comprising:

a frame having first and second securing means for removably securing said frame to the first end of the workpiece on each side of an intended line of cut; and

a notch in said frame for allowing a saw blade to divide the first end of the workpiece into two portions, said notch being disposed between said first and second securing means, said notch and said first and second securing means being cooperatively configured to maintain the position of the two portions of the divided first end of the workpiece;

a second clamp removably secured to a second end of the workpiece, said second clamp comprising:

a frame having first and second securing means for removably securing said frame to the second end of the workpiece on each side of the intended line of cut; and

a notch in said frame for allowing the saw blade to divide the second end of the workpiece into two portions, said notch being disposed between said first and second securing means, said notch and said first and second securing means being cooperatively configured to maintain the position of the two portions of the divided second end of the workpiece; and

means for visually aiding the tool operator to avoid contact between the saw blade and portions of said first and second clamps while the saw blade divides the workpiece into two separated portions.

37(new): The device of claim 36 wherein said first and second clamps include means for removably attaching a guide bar thereto.

38(new): The device of claim 37 wherein said guide bar includes a plurality of planar surfaces that provide a rectangular cross section.

39(new): The device of claim 37 wherein said guide bar includes a slot centered along the longitudinal axis of a bottom surface of said guide bar.

40(new): The device of claim 37 wherein said guide bar includes a plurality of slots centered along the longitudinal axis of a bottom surface of said guide bar.

41(new): The device of claim 40 wherein said attaching means includes a lever and bolt cooperatively coupled to promote the attachment of said guide bar to said first and second clamps.

42(new): The device of claim 36 wherein each of said first and second securing means of said first and second clamps includes a hand operated clamp screw that extends through a lower wall of said frame to rotatably urge a clamp plate to engage a bottom wall of the workpiece to ultimately bind the workpiece between said clamp plate and an angle portion of said frame, said clamp screw being rotatably secured to the frame by a clamp nut integrally secured to said lower wall of said frame.

43(new): The device of claim 36 wherein each of said frames include a protection wall that prevents the workpiece from engaging clamp nuts integrally secured to a lower wall of each of

said frames thereby promoting the engagement of edges of the first and second ends of the workpiece with a corresponding engagement wall of each of said frames to maximize the surface area of engagement between a top wall of the workpiece and angle portions of said frames of said first and second clamps.

44(new): The device of claim 36 wherein each of said notches in said frames are configured to allow a saw blade to pass through each of said frames such that the saw blade avoids engagement with said frames thereby allowing the saw blade to continue cutting the workpiece while the saw blade is manually urged across the line of cut of the workpiece.

45(new): The device of claim 36 wherein said visual aid means includes an inner edge of an angle portion disposed on each side of said notch of each of said first and second clamps, said inner edges providing a visual aid to the power tool operator to avoid contact between the saw blade and said angle portions of said first and second clamps.

46(new): The device of claim 45 wherein said inner edges of opposing angle portions on each side of a corresponding notch, are angled to converge as said inner edges approach an engagement wall of said frames of said first and second clamps.

47(new): A device for maintaining the position of a workpiece after being divided into two portions comprising:

a first clamp removably secured to a first end of the workpiece, said first clamp comprising:

a frame having first and second securing means for removably securing said frame to the first end of the workpiece on each side of an intended line of cut; and

a notch in said frame for allowing a saw blade to divide the first end of the

workpiece into two portions, said notch being disposed between said first and second securing means, said notch and said first and second securing means being cooperatively configured to maintain the position of the two portions of the divided first end of the workpiece; and

a second clamp removably secured to a second end of the workpiece, said second clamp comprising:

a frame having first and second securing means for removably securing said frame to the second end of the workpiece on each side of the intended line of cut: and

a notch in said frame for allowing the saw blade to divide the second end of the workpiece into two portions, said notch being disposed between said first and second securing means, said notch and said first and second securing means being cooperatively configured to maintain the position of the two portions of the divided second end of the workpiece.

48(new): The device of claim 47 wherein said first and second clamps each include means for visually aiding the tool operator to avoid contact between the saw blade and portions of said first and second clamps while the saw blade divides the workpiece into two separated portions.

49(new): The device of claim 47 wherein said first and second clamps include means for removably attaching a guide bar thereto.

50(new): The device of claim 49 wherein said guide bar includes a plurality of slots centered along the longitudinal axis of a bottom surface of said guide bar.

51(new): The device of claim 49 wherein said attaching means includes a lever and bolt cooperatively coupled to promote the attachment of said guide bar to said first and second

clamps.

52(new): The device of claim 47 wherein each of said first and second securing means of said first and second clamps includes a hand operated clamp screw that extends through a lower wall of said frame to rotatably urge a clamp plate to engage a bottom wall of the workpiece to ultimately bind the workpiece between said clamp plate and an angle portion of said frame, said clamp screw being rotatably secured to the frame by a clamp nut integrally secured to said lower wall of said frame.

53(new): The device of claim 48 wherein said visual aid means includes and inner edge of an angle portion disposed on each side of said notch of each of said first and second clamps, said inner edges providing a visual aid to the power tool operator to avoid contact between the saw blade and said angle portions of said first and second clamps.

54(new): The device of claim 53 wherein said inner edges of opposing angle portions on each side of a corresponding notch, are angle to converge as said inner edges approach an engagement wall of said frames of said first and second clamps.

55(new): A method for maintaining the position of a workpiece after being divided into two portions, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first clamp removably secured to a first end of the workpiece, said first clamp comprising:

a frame having first and second securing means for removably securing said frame to the first end of the workpiece on each side on an intended line of cut; and a notch in said frame for allowing a saw blade to divide the first end of the workpiece into two portions, said notch being disposed between said first and

second securing means, said frame and said first and second securing means being cooperatively configured to maintain the position of the two portions of the divided first end of the workpiece; and

providing a second clamp removably secured to a second end of the workpiece, said second clamp comprising:

a frame having first and second securing means for removably securing said frame to the second end of the workpiece on each side of the intended line of cut; and

a notch in said frame for allowing a saw blade to divide the second end of the workpiece into two portions, said notch being disposed between said first and second securing means, said frame and said first and second securing means being cooperatively configured to maintain the position of the two portions of the divided second end of the workpiece.

REMARKS

Pursuant to the Advisory Action mailed February 27, 2004, Continuation Application 10/179,112, filed on June 25, 2002 is hereby abandoned and the Continuation Application submitted with this Preliminary Amendment is filed this 24th day of March, 2004.

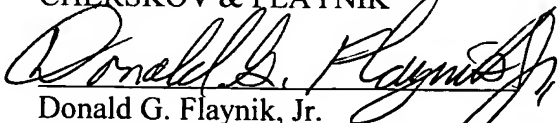
Independent claim 1 of this Preliminary Amendment includes a guide device for a power saw operating upon a workpiece to divide the workpiece into two separated portions irrespective of the length of cut. The device of the Grosswald patent (U.S. patent no. 3,373,781) has a fixed length and is not adjustable thereby limiting the length of the line of cut of the workpiece to the length of the Grosswald device.

Independent claims 47 and 55 include a device and method for maintaining the position of a workpiece after being divided into two portions. The Grosswald does not disclose, teach or suggest a device or method to maintain the position of the two separated portions of the cut end of the workpiece secured by the screws 9. More specifically, once a saw cuts the end of the workpiece attached to the Grosswald device via screws 9, the separated portions will be vertically displaced unless a support structure is disposed under each of the separated portions at the end of the workpiece. Vertical displacement of the separated portions is detrimental to a smooth, uniform, continuous cut across the entire workpiece.

Claims 47 and 55 include a device and method that secures the separated portions of the cut end of the workpiece together throughout the cutting operation thereby preventing vertical displacement relative to the two separated portions. Thus, a support structure is not required under either of the separated portions to prevent vertical displacement. Further, if a support structure should be utilized under one or both of the separated portions, vertical displacement will not occur irrespective of the positioning of the support structure relative to the workpiece.

Allowance of the application is deemed in order and is respectfully requested. If the Examiner upon consideration of the forgoing finds that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, he is respectfully urged to call the applicant's undersigned attorney. It is submitted that all independent claims and the dependent claims corresponding thereto are now of proper form and scope for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,
CHERSKOV & FLAYNIK



Donald G. Flaynik, Jr.
(Reg. No. 30,836) Phone (312)621-1330